GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5750
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2007
AIR SERVICES BETWEEN SHIMLA- KULLU
Shandil Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operation of air services to Shimla-Kullu has been stopped by Vayudoot, Indian and other private airlines;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to restart the air services for the said route?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b):- Indian has discontinued operations to Shimla Kullu. Indian Airlines had a fleet of three Dornier-228 aircraft, and used to operate a DO228 aircraft to/from Shimla and Kullu. Due to the grounding of one DO228, the services to Shimla and Kullu were withdrawn w.e.f. 23th September, 2002. The remaining two aircraft are positioned at Cochin, in order to maintain a vital air link between Lakshadweep Island and mainland India. However, Jagson Airlines and Air Deccan are providing services on this sector.

(c):- Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government.